

MEMORY OF GEN. CUSTER HONORED BY THOUSANDS

(Continued from page one) they hoped that their children and their children's children might live in peace and comfort. Refusing to give up this goodly land without a struggle was but natural. And so it became evident that civilization could not win in the west, without an appeal to arms.

"The advance of civilization and the progress of the human race always has been made at the price of human sacrifice.

"And so the federal government started out to subdue the west by force of arms, in order to prepare a way for the oncoming civilization. General George A. Custer was one of the bravest, most daring and dashing soldiers of his day.

Educated at West Point, he had part in the Civil war, serving with great distinction under Generals Sheridan, Kearney, McClellan, and Hancock. He won fame as a fighter in the battle of Bull Run, Gettysburg, Winchester and in many other engagements and attained the rank of a major general. After the Civil war he became one of the most brilliant and thrilling Indian fighters in the service. From the close of the war to the time of his death, he was engaged almost constantly on the frontier in warfare with hostile Indians. He was uniformly successful, and achieved victory after victory, until on the fatal twenty-fifth day of June 1876, he fell at this spot fighting.

"It would avail nothing to repeat here the circumstances which led up to the fatal struggle. Time to some extent at least has cleared the atmosphere and it is now apparent that this was the climax of the Indian warfare.

"How strikingly in contrast is the zone of which we are today a part. As the rains and snows of the seasons that have come and gone since that direful day have long since effaced all trace of the catastrophe so have the passing years obliterated all enmity between pale face and red man. Today on the very knoll where but yesterday their people met in furious conflict, they strike hands in frankest friendship. For them the dead past has buried its dead and they meet as brothers in one great fraternity, whose aim is the pointing of all mankind to the highest and the best that is attainable by mortal man of whatever race or previous conditions. No more does the red man follow the travels to the distant hunting ground. No longer does the white man in uniform people the forts and hear the call to ride forth for the protection of the settle. The flap of the Indians' teepee is open and the latchstring of his house is out to the hand of his white brother, for he has learned that white man wishes him well. We are their friends and their friends we shall remain. While today we observe the anniversary of a tragic event there is in our hearts no rancor, no trace of bitterness. There is peace, sweet and abiding, peace in this one time blood stained valley. The white man has long since laid away his weapons of defense knowing well that this is the peace which endures. There is the rust of years upon the buried tomahawk of the red man, his scalping knife has been transformed to an im-

plement of agriculture and war whoop breaks not upon the balmy air.

"Knowing all this to be true we in Montana, who are the chief beneficiaries of this sacrifice of Custer and his command give cordial welcome to those of you who have come within our borders and have shown a sympathetic interest in the events of this anniversary period.

"We know that we have here a fair and lovely land—not yet a land literally flowing with milk and honey, but a proud young state of vast extent and incalculable possibilities, wherein we and those who are to come after us shall have the high hope of working out an enviable destiny and as we are gathered here in the grateful warmth of the summer sun for the moment a part of this marvelous panorama of peace promise, something tells us that somewhere out there the heroic Custer and his equally heroic two hundred 'safe and secure from all alarms,' look down upon the scene as if in benediction and we seem to hear them whisper across the spaces, 'It was not in vain we died.'

This afternoon the troopers contributed spectacular riding to the Indian rodeo. Veterans gathered in little groups, talking over old times, usually with a ring of the younger generation standing around them, enjoying their reminiscences. The older Indians stayed in their tents resting up from their long ride this morning or sat in little groups on the grass, exchanging an occasional word or two or conversing apparently casually in the sign language.

Tonight out of the park the Seventh cavalry band gave its nightly concert and the Indians staged another tribal dance but the crowd thinned gradually as the automobiles turned toward the larger neighboring cities and others returned on the special trains. Tomorrow General Godfrey will mark with a cross the Reno, Benteen ground and funeral services will be held at both functions.

CROW AGENCY, June 26.—Burial with full military honors, Saturday, was accorded one of the troopers of Gen. George Armstrong Custer, who fell with his commander and 200 comrades at the battle of the Little Big Horn, just a few miles from here, 50 years ago Friday. The first burial place of the trooper, on the bank of the river, was uncovered a few days ago by men building a road across a part of the old battlefield. Identification was impossible, but buttons from an army uniform found there made it certain that the grave was that of a trooper with Custer. Many of the dead found by General Terry's men after the battle were buried where they lay and the record is not clear as to the definite location of most of them. Chaplain George J. McMurray, who conducted the services, explained that, inasmuch as it is impossible to say whether the man was a non-commissioned officer, the regiment determined to pay the highest honor accorded an enlisted man.

Preceded by his riderless horse, saddled, bridled, bearing the boots and cavalry sabre, reversed, the casket containing the last mortal remains of the unknown trooper was borne to the site of a proposed monument at Garryowen as the Seventh cavalry band played a funeral dirge.

At the cemetery, Chaplain MacMurray read the service, three volleys crashed over the grave, and to the sound of taps the regiment paid its last farewell. The funeral was distinguished by the fact that, in addition to active pallbearers from the new Seventh, eight members of Custer's Seventh, who were engaged in the battle where the trooper was killed, accompanied the casket to the grave.

Following the funeral, Gen. E. S. Godfrey, a Custer veteran, as chairman of the Custer Memorial association, presided over the dedication of a great slab of granite, which is to be a memorial to the unknown soldier. The little plot of ground on which the monument stands has been deeded by Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Carter of Hardin, to the memorial

association for the pioneers of the west. To be placed within the crypt, White Buffalo, for the Sioux and Cheyenne warriors who came off the battlefield victors 50 years ago, offered his tomahawk, explaining, through an interpreter, that he wished to show in that way that enmity between the red man and the white was at an end.

In reply General Godfrey said: "During the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there was strife between our peoples—the struggle of the white civilization for supremacy, possession, development and culture, as against savagery or barbaric nature. Factional strife among the white peoples of Europe caused bold adventurous spirits to seek respite on this western continent. The ever-increasing population on the coast caused trespassing on the hunting grounds to the west—then came friction, protest, resentment and war. After each war there followed a wave of immigration establishing a new frontier.

"With the discovery of gold on the west coast there began a new frontier—a new pressure from the west. These pressures were accompanied by grievous wrongs to your people, but your vengeance only hastened the doom that time awaited. The inevitable result of this nut-cracker pressure was to bring on a crisis. For nearly a decade that crisis was delayed through the personality of that brainy chieftain, 'Red Cloud,' whose renown will ever live in the annals of the northwest.

"The prelude to this crisis came with the discovery of gold in the Black Hills

of Dakota by General Custer's expedition in the summer of 1874, and the climax came with the tragedy of the battle of the Little Big Horn, commonly known as "Custer's Last Battle," with troops under the command of our hitherto undaunted leader.

"The semicentennial of this battle we now commemorate. The immediate result of that battle was a temporary victory of the red man's savagery—the ultimate result was the wiping out of all national frontiers—the triumph of the white man's civilization and the merging of both whites and reds into a common citizenship and everlasting peace. Time out of mind the hatchet has been with the red race, the symbol of war. We now unite in the ceremony of burying the hatchet, holding it covenant of our common citizenship and everlasting peace. We pray the god of our fathers, the great spirit, to insure this covenant to all future generations."

In the crypt also were placed a map of the battlefield, photographs of General Custer and several of the leading figures in the combat, some mementoes picked up on the battlefield, medals issued in commemoration of the semicentennial anniversary of the battle, together with a number of booklets devoted to historical descriptions of the fight.

In the afternoon General Godfrey went again to the battlefield, where Majors Benteen and Reno made their stands, and there placed a large cross which will mark the battlefield pending the erection of a proposed congressional memorial shaft.

Saturday's events conclude the three-day semi-centennial program prepared by the National Custer Memorial association of which General Godfrey is chairman, and by citizens and communities of Montana and Wyoming adjacent to the battlefield.

SATURDAY
Big Music Festival—half a Dozen Bands and Orchestra.

SUNDAY
3 p. m.—Address by Hon. Wm. Jardine, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture.
8 p. m.—Concert by Mme. Schumann-Heink for benefit Disabled War Veterans.

MONDAY
2 p. m.—Wild West Rodeo, Indian, Auto and Motorcycle Races, "Bill" Hart judging.
8 p. m.—Great Pyrotechnic Display.
9:30 p. m.—Boxing carnival auspices American Legion featuring Al Webster vs. Dago Joe Gans.
And other attractions each day.

BILLINGS
July 2, 3, 4.

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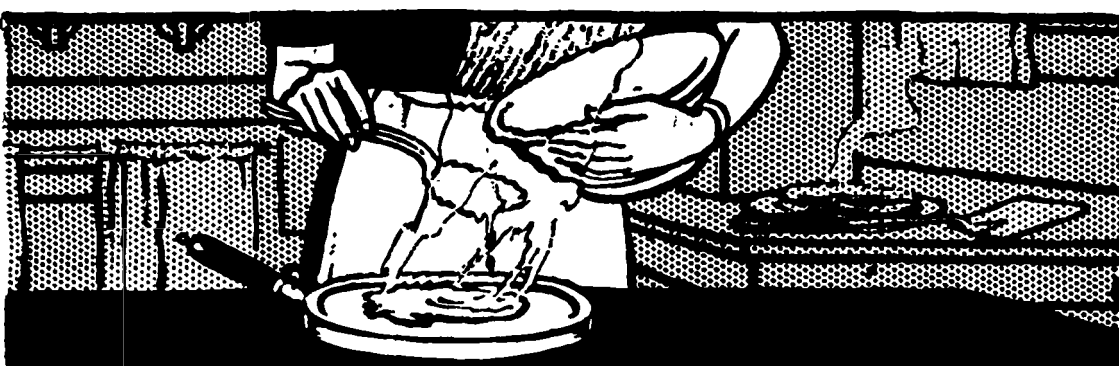
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